

REMARKS

Applicants hereby acknowledge the Rescinding of Secrecy Order notice mailed July 31, 2008. Applicants also hereby acknowledge that prosecution of this application has been reopened in response to said Rescinding Order. Prosecution had previously been closed by the mailing of a Notice of Allowability (Form D-10) on January 11, 1994, but issuance of the application was held in abeyance due to said Secrecy Order.

Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 10, 11 and 21 contain allowable subject matter.

Several claims have been amended for clarity or to correct typographical errors as shown above. Claims 1 and 3-7 have been amended to correct the capitalization of “j/g” to “J/g”. Claim 1 has been amended to correct the unit for peel strength to read lbs/in as found in claims 10, 11 and 21. The amendment in claim 1 clarifying an energy-to-break range of “at least” about 8 j/d was a typographical error and is supported by original claim 2. The amendment regarding the initiating/compatibilization agent is supported in page 13 at lines 1-9 and in page 21 at lines 3-7 as discussed below. Claim 2 is amended to add a space between 150 and g/denier as well as between 8 and J/g. Claims 4-6 and 22 are amended to refer to the “tensile modulus” as per claim 1, and claim 6 is amended to add “is” between “modulus” and “equal.” Claim 7 has been amended to add “a” between “having” and “tenacity,” to add a space between “20” and “g/denier” and to add “about” between “at least” and “35 J/g.” The “about” limitation added to claim 7 is supported by page 6, line 7. Claim 13 is amended to correct a “which” to “with” for proper grammar. Claim 21 is amended to correct a typographical error, changing “thermoset vinylester” to “thermosetting vinyl ester” as found in claim 20. Claim 25 is amended to recite at least “about 1%” as supported by page 23, lines 12-14 and by original claims 26-27. Claims 26 and 27 are amended for clarity, stating “of the blend” as found in original claim 25 and on page 23 at lines 14-20.

The undersigned thanks Examiner Johnson for the telephonic interview conducted on June 27, 2011 between the Examiner and the undersigned. During the interview, the prior art was discussed in general terms rather than in specific detail. The primary focus of the interview was directed to the peel strength limitation of claim 1, which was added via amendment in the response dated July 15, 1993, and how that limitation defined over the art similarly to allowable claims 10, 11 and 21. Examiner Johnson indicated that the peel strength limitation from the July 15, 1993 amendment was presented in two lines on a different page of the amendment than the rest of claim 1 and were accidentally overlooked. In consideration of this peel strength limitation in claim 1, the Examiner concluded that claim 1 includes allowable subject matter over the cited art for the same reasons as claims 10, 11 and 21. Such is noted with appreciation. The Examiner's notation in the Interview Summary form PTOL-413 mailed June 28, 2011 that agreement was reached on this issue is also noted with appreciation. The remaining rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been addressed herein.

Claims 1-7, 10-13 and 15-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome by the instant amendment. First, the Office Action states that claim 1 lacks a period, but this has been addressed above with respect to the text that was printed on page 2 of the July 15, 1993 amendment. Second, the Office Action states that the claimed initiating/compatibilization agent is indefinite because it is not clear whether the slash is intended to indicate "and" or "or". This has been clarified by the instant amendment which specifies that the initiating/compatibilization agent comprises an initiating and compatibilization agent. This is supported in page 13 at lines 1-9 which states that,

An "initiating/compatibilization" agent is a material which has one or more moieties for initiating curing of at least one of the thermosetting resins and which are compatible therewith and which has one or more moieties which are compatible with at least one of said thermoplastic resins resulting in an improvement in the homogeneity of the blend of thermoplastic resins and thermosetting resins.

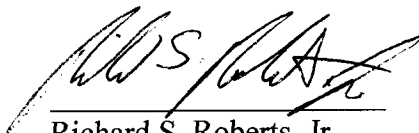
This is further supported in page 21 at lines 3-7, where in discussing the initiating/compatibilization agent the application states that, “[t]his material serves a dual purpose. It promotes the cure of the thermosetting resin and enhances the homogeneity of the blend.”

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that each of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been overcome, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 12-13, 15-20 and 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. patent 4,748,064 to Harpell et al. in view of U.S. patent 4,692,479 to Schneider et al. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome for the reasons described above in the Interview Summary. The claimed peel strength limitation of 3.0 lbs/inch in claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art and defines allowable subject matter over the cited art for the same reasons as claims 10, 11 and 21. In view of the agreement reached between the undersigned and Examiner Johnson as identified in the Interview Summary form PTOL-413 mailed June 28, 2011, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The undersigned respectfully requests re-examination of this application and believes it is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested. If the Examiner believes there is any matter which prevents allowance of the present application, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted to arrange for an interview which may expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. S. Roberts, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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